In an essentially interdisciplinary field the cost of this desirable book could be shared between endoscopists and pathologists.

ANNE C MADDOCKS

A Colour Atlas of Forensic Dentistry. DK Whittaker, DG McDonald. (Pp 134; £35.) Wolfe Medical Publications Ltd. ISBN 0 7234 0961 7.

This is one in the series of the Wolfe Medical Atlases covering in particular the highly specialised field of forensic dentistry written by two of the leading proponents in this area.

The general style is similar to others in the series, with colour photographs accompanied by a short text. The photographs are of exceptionally high quality but sometimes add little if anything to the text.

This book suffers from two main drawbacks: the first is the absence of a bibliography; the second is that it alternates from being highly technical to appearing to have been written for the layman.

Notwithstanding this and other minor criticisms (such as including lip prints, the relevance of which has never been shown useful in open court), it does fulfil the role in being an introduction to forensic dentistry. Serious students in this field should, however, look elsewhere.

DA ROUSE

Prostate Biopsy Interpretation. Biopsy Interpretation Series. Jonathan I Epstein. (Pp 270; $86.50.) Raven Press. 1989. ISBN 0-88167-548-2

This volume in the biopsy series comprises 277 black and white illustrations and approximately 80 pages of text devoted to the interpretation of surgical prostatic pathology. Subjects covered include the normal and hyperplastic gland, inflammatory conditions, adenocarcinoma, atypical hyperplasia, and the non-acinar neoplasms.

The illustration and description of the various causes of granulomata are useful. In the chapters on adenocarcinoma the differential diagnostic problems posed by transurethral and biopsy specimens, grading, staging, and changes induced by treatment are excellent. Illustrations and relevant text are closely correlated and good use is made of low and high power photomicrographs, especially in the diagnosis of carcinoma—stimulating the diagnostic approach. Each chapter has an impressive up to date list of references but the older classics are not forgotten.

The author has a characteristic which I have rarely encountered. His book is intensely practical; one has the lasting feeling of being taught over a double headed microscope, a quality achieved while retaining a precise text in which every discussion point is evaluated in terms of numerical fact, and a conclusion reached. Finally, he clearly places pathology in a clinical setting. As Dr Epstein states, his interest in genitourinary pathology is partly the result of his work with the late Dr Joseph Eggleston and his close liaison with the Urological Department at Johns Hopkins where some 200 radical prostatectomies are performed each year, but his will and ability to share his knowledge are surely his own.

Only minor changes or additions can be suggested. For those of us who use the TNM method of staging, a short paragraph on the American system understandably applied throughout this text would have been useful. In the photomicrographs, when illustrating low and high powers of the same field, occasionally the orientation has been transposed.

The publication of this book is opportune. Carcinoma of the prostate is the third leading cause of male cancer deaths and yet as urologists are well aware current treatment has little effect on mortality. Therefore, emphasis is being placed on early diagnosis by a combination of rectal ultrasound and biopsy and an increased awareness of small foci of adenocarcinoma in resection specimens. Rectal ultrasound is already available in several teaching centres and larger urology units, but it is rumoured that they are being rapidly supplied to many district hospitals. At the same time there is renewed urological interest in radical prostatectomy for low volume disease. In this environment an extra responsibility will be placed on pathologists interpreting biopsy and TURP specimens. Therefore this book is strongly recommended, not only to histopathologists in training but to those established in practice.

There are other text books and atlases of genitourinary pathology and some devoted entirely to the prostate, including a previous one from Raven Press, but this would be my choice when faced by a diagnostic problem.

M CONNIE PARKINSON

Molecular Biology of the Cell. 2nd ed. B. Alberts, D Bray, J Lewis, M Raff, K Roberts, JD Watson. (Pp 1218 + index; £26.50.) Garland Publishing Inc. 1989. ISBN 0-8240-3696-4 (paperback).

Cell and molecular biology have advanced at a staggering rate since the publication of the first edition of *The molecular biology of the cell* in 1983. Despite this the authors (and their numerous helpers) have only taken an extra 100 pages to convey the essentials of contemporary biology concisely and lucidly. It is a joy to read the text and study the clear illustrations, both of which have been extensively revised. The range of the book is staggering, mistakes are very rare and it is remarkably up to date including references from late 1988. There are three sections and 21 chapters. The first section, *Introduction to the cell*, covers the essentials of cellular biochemistry including a brief guide to the methods used for studying cells. It concludes with a lucid account of genetic mechanisms and an introduction to molecular biology. This is followed by a section entitled *Molecular organisation of cells*, which includes discussions of membranes, cytoplasmic organisation including an excellent chapter on the cytoskeleton, and the nucleus. Other chapters describe modern notions regarding cell signalling, control of growth and cell division, and a very good account of cell adhesion and extracellular matrix. Finally a section entitled *Cells to multicellular organisms* considers how cells interact with each other, taking development, differentiation, the immune system and the nervous system in turn. For those who wish to understand the plants in their garden a little better there is a fascinating chapter on cellular organisation in plants. The final chapter turns to the cell biology of cancer. This book is magnificent. It is a must for any pathologist who wishes to remain conversant with modern biology, and at a mere £26.50 is an incredible bargain! Go and buy it!!

PA HALL

Myobacterial Skin Diseases. New Clinical Applications Dermatology. Ed M Harahap. (Pp 142; £30·00.) Kluwer Academic Publishers. 1989. ISBN 0 7462 0119 2.

The indefatigable Dr Julian Verbov has produced the final volume in his dermatological series of "New Clinical Applications". His aim was to publish up to the minute articles by leading experts on subjects of interest as quickly as possible and avoid the problem of multiauthor text books which are out of date by the time they are off the presses. This he has achieved. This volume covers all aspects of myobacterial skin diseases including tuberculosis, leprosy, and atypical mycobacteria (principally marinum, fortuitum, ulcerans, and chelonae). Inevitably there is a little repetition among authors but not enough to constitute a fault. There are some excellent reviews by Drs Convit, Harahap, Grange, McDougall, Tomecki, and Ulrich. The readership is clearly likely to be largely dermatological but this volume would constitute an excellent basic grammar for the pathologist in training. The price would put off some but any self respecting department should have accumulated enough funds to buy it.

AWP DU VIVIER

Microbiological Methods. 6th ed. CH Collins, Patricia M Lyne, JM Grange. (Pp 409; softcover £29.50.) Butterworths. 1989. ISBN 0-407-008853

To my surprise, I have not encountered this remarkable little book before. It is not comprehensive, nor does it claim to be, but it is crammed with information not readily found elsewhere. Its publication record—six editions in 25 years—is testament to its success and popularity. The authors acknowledge that they have "moulded" the material submitted by their contributors into their own "telegraphic style" which I find synoptic yet readable.

A better title would be "Bacteriological Methods" because virological techniques are not considered, although some space is devoted to mycology. Basic topics covered include laboratory safety, equipment, sterilisation, materials, media and methods, altogether in 140 pages. Collection and processing of specimens for clinical bacteriology is considered briefly (15 pages) and this is followed by an outline of antimicrobial sensitivity and assay tests in a chapter of similar length. The bacteriology of food, all types including dairy products, water, and the environment receives detailed treatment in 70 pages, and I found these chapters a useful compendium of what to do with an